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ED

28 May 1954

[Redacted] Copy No. 80

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 3
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
 DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 2/1/50 REVIEWER: [Redacted]

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Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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State Department review
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GENERAL

1. Comment on British Labor delegation's prospective visit to Peiping:
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[Redacted]

The British Labor Party's decision to send a delegation of eight top officials including Clement Atlee and Aneurin Bevan to Communist China this summer gives the Peiping regime an opportunity to try to widen the split between Britain and the United States on Asian policy.

Peiping may try to use the delegation as a channel for establishing full diplomatic relations with Britain. The Chinese have refused to do this ever since the Labor government recognized the Communists in January 1950. In line with their well-known tactic of "peoples' diplomacy"--the tactic of by-passing established governments--the Chinese would at least emphasize the advantages of "friendly" relations, in the expectation that the Labor Party would increase its pressure on the government to adopt a more "independent" attitude toward Peiping, and in the longer-range hope that Labor would return to power.

The Labor Party sought the invitation, probably for the announced purpose of conducting a good-will tour. The inclusion of Bevan in the delegation probably represents a further attempt to close the Labor Party's breach on foreign policy issues.

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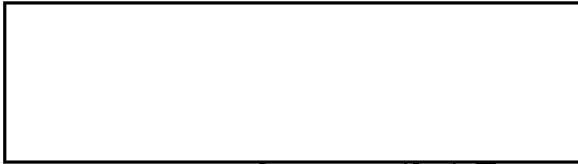
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WESTERN EUROPE

3. Opposition to Laniel's policies gaining ground in France:

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Francois Mitterrand has a large and growing audience for his arguments against the government's Indochina and European policies, according to the American embassy in Paris. Mitterrand argues that France is a Mediterranean rather than a world power and no longer has a sufficient stake in Indochina to make the fight there worthwhile.

The embassy considers Mitterrand one of the most prominent young leaders among center groups in the National Assembly. His views may find considerable support in next week's debate on Indochina.

Comment: Mitterrand, president of the small Resistance Union, which was formerly headed by Defense Minister Pleven, is sympathetic to Mendes-France's program. He quit the Laniel cabinet last September in protest against its strong-arm policy in Morocco. His opposition to Laniel's Indochina program was largely responsible for the premier's poor showing in the 13 May vote of confidence. Although only 38 years old, he is considered a possible successor to Laniel.

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LATIN AMERICA

4. Colombian diplomat warns against "unilateral" US action on Guatemala:
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[redacted] Echeverri Cortes, ranking member of the Colombian UN delegation, told Ambassador Lodge on 26 May that the majority of Latin American governments might "solidify against the United States" if there were any semblance of unilateral action by Washington on the Guatemalan arms case or any appearance of intervention in Guatemalan domestic affairs.

Lodge believes that Echeverri Cortes is genuinely friendly to the United States and that his remarks reflect a growing feeling that Washington is intervening unilaterally.

Comment: The Colombian government has strongly favored taking action against Guatemala and against Communism in general. The ambassador's remarks reflect general Latin American sensitivity on the question of great-power intervention and on the niceties of international law.

At the Caracas conference in March, Colombia and Brazil insisted on adding to the anti-Communist resolution a clause providing for hemisphere consultation on the methods of dealing with any Communist threat.

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